

MIAMI INT'L FILM FESTIVAL MARCH 12, 2016 7:32 PM

# 'Dheepan' and 'Queen of Thursdays' win big at Miami International Film Festival

## HIGHLIGHTS

The awards were announced Saturday night

"Dheepan" won the Grand Jury Prize, which includes a \$30,000 cash award'

"Spy Time" and "The Companion" tied for the Audience Award for Best Feature



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BY RENE RODRIGUEZ

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*Dheepan*, a drama about Sri Lankan refugees trying to build a new life in Paris, won the Grand Jury Prize in the Knight Competition at the 2016 Miami International Film Festival. The award includes a \$30,000 cash award provided by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation.

The Lexus Audience Award for Best Feature Film, voted on by festival audiences, was a tie between Spain's *Spy Time*, the James Bond spoof directed by Javier Ruiz Caldera, and *The Companion*, a drama set in 1980s Havana during the AIDS epidemic, directed by Cuban filmmaker Pavel Giroud. Logan Sandler's *Tracks*, about an amateur skateboarder faced with a dilemma on the day of a championship tournament, won Best Short Film.

Dheepan official trailer



Other winners at this year's festival, which were announced Saturday at the Olympia Theater:

- *Paulina (La patota)*, a drama about a woman's fateful decision to abandon her PhD studies and become a schoolteacher, won the Lexus Ibero-American Feature Film Grand Jury prize (\$10,000). It was directed by Santiago Mitre.
- *Queen of Thursdays*, a documentary about Rosario Suárez, the former prima ballerina of the Ballet Nacional de Cuba who fled to Miami, won the Knight Documentary Achievement Award (\$10,000).

- *The Lobster*, a droll allegorical comedy about a near-future where people are required to find a romantic person or be turned into an animal, snagged the Knight Competition Best Director prize for Yorgos Lanthimos (\$5,000).

The Lobster Official International Trailer #1 (2015) - Rachel Weisz, Colin Farrell Mo...



- *Mountains May Depart*, the story of a young woman from a Chinese village who must choose between two suitors, won the Knight Competition Best Performance award for its star Zhao Tao (\$5,000).

Mountains May Depart - Official Trailer



- *From Afar (Desde allá)*, writer-director Lorenzo Vigas' tale of a lonely middle-aged man who pays younger men to spend time with him, won the Jordan Alexander Ressler Screenwriting Award (\$5,000).

Desde Allá - From Afar | official trailer (2015) Venice Film Festival



The Miami International Film Festival, which is presented by Miami Dade College, concludes Sunday with screenings at various venues around Miami.

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- Documentary “Queen of Thursdays” is story of famed Cuban ballerina Rosario “Charin” Suárez
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